CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A password management system, comprising:

2   graphical user interface logic operable to receive a current password

3   from a user, prompt the user to determine whether the user desires to change the

4   current password, and responsive to the user response receive a new password;

5   password confirmation logic operable to confirm the current password

6   associated with the user on a switched access remote test system; and

7   password administration logic, responsive to the password

8   confirmation logic and the graphical user interface, operable to receive the new

9   password and to change the current password on the switched access remote test

10   system.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the password confirmation logic is

2   operable to send the current password to the switched access remote test system and

3   receive a response from the switched access remote test system.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the password confirmation logic is

2   operable to compare the response with a plurality of expected responses and

3   determine whether the current password provided by the user is valid.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the response is an alphanumeric string,

2   and the plurality of expected responses comprises erroneous responses and successful

3   responses.

1   5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the password confirmation logic is

2   operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of

3   error messages to the user upon the password confirmation logic determining that the

4   current password provided by the user is not valid.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the password administration logic

2   performs a password change upon receiving a request to change the password from

3   the graphical user interface.

1   7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic

2   performs a password change upon receiving a confirmation of the password from the

3   password confirmation logic.

1   8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the password administration logic is

2   operable to send the current password and the new password to the switched access

3   remote test system and receive a response from the switched access remote test

4   system, and compare the response to a plurality of expected responses

1   9.   The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic is

2   operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of

3   error messages to the user upon the password administration logic determining that

4   the new password provided by the user was not accepted by the switched access

5   remote test system.

1   10.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

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2   a password file operable to store a set of data comprising the expiration

3   date of the current password;

4   expiration logic operable to read the password file and request that the

5   graphical user interface notify the user that the current password is nearing expiration

6   responsive to the expiration date.

1   11.   The system of claim 1, wherein the password management system is

2   operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems through a

3   second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched

4   access remote testing systems.

1   12.   A method of managing passwords, comprising the steps of:

2   providing a user with a graphical user interface;

3   receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user

4   interface for a switched access remote test system;

5   prompting the user on whether to change the current password;

6   receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user

7   response to the prompting;

8   confirming the current password with the switched access remote test

9   system; and

10   requesting that the switched access remote test system change the

11   password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the confirming the current password

2   further comprises the steps of:

3   sending the current password to the switched access remote test

4   system; and

5   receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the confirming the current password

2   further comprises the step of comparing the response from the switched access remote

3   test system with a plurality of expected responses.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the confirming the current password

2   further comprises the step of notifying the user of an error responsive to the

3   comparing step.

1   16.   The method of claim 12, wherein the requesting that the switched

2   access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the

3   prompt step further comprises sending the new password to the switched access

4   remote test system along with the current password.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the requesting that the switched

2   access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the

3   prompt step further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote

4   test system after sending the new password.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of comparing the

2   received response with a plurality of expected responses.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of providing an

2   error message to the user responsive to the comparing step.

1   20.   The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

2   reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with

3   the current password; and

4   prompting the user to change the password responsive to the expiration

5   date.

1   21.   A computer readable medium having a program for managing

2   passwords, the program operable to perform the steps of:

3   providing a user with a graphical user interface;

4   receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user

5   interface for a switched access remote test system;

6   prompting the user on whether to change the current password;

7   receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user

8   response to the prompting;

9   confirming the current password with the switched access remote test

10   system;

11   requesting that the switched access remote test system change the

12   password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

1   22.   The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the confirming

2   the current password further comprises the steps of:

3   sending the current password to the switched access remote test

4   system; and

5   receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

1   23.   The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the confirming

2   the current password further comprises the step of comparing the response from the

3   switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses.

1   24.   The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the confirming

2   the current password further comprises the step of notifying the user of an error

3   responsive to the comparing step.

1   25.   The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the requesting

2   that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the

3   user response to the prompt step further comprises sending the new password to the

4   switched access remote test system along with the current password.

1   26.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the requesting

2   that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the

3   user response to the prompt step further comprises receiving a response from the

4   switched access remote test system after sending the new password.

1   27.   The computer readable medium of claim 26, the program further

2   operable to perform the step of comparing the received response with a plurality of

3   expected responses.

1   28.   The computer readable medium of claim 27, the program further

2   operable to perform the step of providing an error message to the user responsive to

3   the comparing step.

1   29.   The computer readable medium of claim 21, the program further

2   operable to perform the steps of:

3   reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with

4   the current password; and

5   prompting the user to change the password responsive to the expiration

6   date.